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**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
HONORS FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF PARK FELLOWS**

PAXTON—Today, in a ceremony held in Moore State Park, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) honored the 10 students graduating from its 2006 Park Fellows program.

This is the initial year of the Park Fellows program, which was developed by DCR in partnership with the University of Massachusetts. The nine-week course is designed to help college students explore their interest in park management and operations.

“We are glad to partner with the University of Massachusetts in creating the new Park Fellows program,” said DCR Director of State Parks & Recreation Priscilla Geigis. “DCR administers over 400,000 acres of public land in the Commonwealth, and this program will help to train the next generation of park leaders who will steward this land for us all.”

“I am very impressed with the quality of the Park Fellows,” said Leslie Ackles, Director of Organization Development and Training at the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute. “They have shown dedication to their work, and their projects have yielded exciting results.”

Each Park Fellow completes rotations at two different DCR facilities, where they are each assigned a mentor from among the facility’s staff. Fellows experience the widest possible variety of tasks related to park management, from administrative work and customer service to forestry and maintenance.

The graduating students are:

- Andrew Cooper of East Falmouth (Unity College)
- Leah Jeffries of Dartmouth (St. Michael’s College)
- Mark Angeloni of Belchertown (Union College)
- Greta Tinay of Dartmouth (Boston University)
- Laura Evans of Walworth, New York (Hobart and William Smith Colleges)
- Ryan J. O’Malley of Malden (College of the Holy Cross)
- Sam Merrick of Brandon, Vermont (Boston University)
- Jonathan Karam of Tiverton, Rhode Island (Boston University)
- Emily Devine of Hanson (Bridgewater State College)
- Dominique Williams of Roxbury (Winston-Salem State University)

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